

PAINSCASTLE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

for the year 1947.

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Officials.

Medical Officer of Health..... Dr. W.W.Wilson, M.R., Ch.B.

Sanitary Inspector ..... G.G.Evans, M.R.San.I.  
M.S.I.A.



Report of the Medical Officer of Health.1947.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my annual report on the sanitary conditions and the state of the public health in the Painscastle Rural District during the year 1947.

In preparation of this report I have endeavoured to deal briefly with all matters within my responsibility regarding public health and preventive medicine and I have included all the subjects specifically requested by the Welsh Board of Health in Circular 170/47 (Wales).

SECTION 1. GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS.Statistical Summary for the year 1947.

Area .....	31,414 acres.
Population (Census 1931) .....	2,201.
Population (Estimated at midsummer 1947).....	1,750.
Number of inhabited houses.....	544

Live births-	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate per 1,000 Pop.
Legitimate.	17.	11.	28.	16.00
Illegitimate.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	(England & Wales 20.50)

There were no Still Births.

Deaths from all causes.	1.	1.	2.	1.1
	England and Wales			0.5

Maternal Deaths ..... Nil.

Deaths under one year-

All infants ..... 1. Rate per 1000 live births... 36

Infant mortality..... Nil. England and Wales ..... 41

<u>Analysis of Causes of Deaths.</u>	Males...7	Females.....6
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<u>Cause.</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
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Tuberculosis respiratory system.....	0	0
Influenza.....	0	0
Cancer Uterus.....	0	0
Cancer all other sites.....	1	0
Intracranial Vascular lesions.....	0	1
Heart Disease.....	2	3
Respiratory diseases.....	0	1
Ulcer stomach .....	0	0
Congenital malformations.....	0	0
Suicide.....	0	0
Road traffic accidents.....	0	0
Other violent causes.....	0	0
All other causes.....	4	1

Total death rate 7.4. (England and Wales 12.0)

The deaths are classified under the headings given in the New Abridged List of Causes.

ILLEGITIMACY

There were no illegitimate births during 1947.



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MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Nil.

SECTION 2. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

Public Health Officers. There was no change in the public health officers during the year. Mr. G.G.Evans remained as your Sanitary Inspector.

Laboratory facilities. During the year laboratory facilities were available at Hereford and Brecon.

All water samples were sent to the above laboratories, whilst any investigation required in the control of infectious disease were performed by the Public Health Laboratory at Hereford. All milk sampling was done by the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme at Brecon.

Ambulance Facilities. There was no change in the arrangements existing for the conveyance of sick persons in the district. Persons suffering from infectious disease are conveyed to hospital in private cars, which system is far from satisfactory. The St. John's Ambulance Association meet the need of other patients requiring removal to Hospital.

Home Nursing The arrangements made by the District Nursing Associations render the services of a trained nurse available for any family in the respective areas of your district on payment of a small contribution.

Hospitals The hospital needs of the residents of the district for all diseases, apart from infectious diseases, are provided by Radnor County Hospital, Llandrindod Wells and the General Hospital, Hereford. For treatment of Infectious Diseases, when necessary cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital, Hay.

Disinfection In the main, current disinfection is advised, and for terminal disinfection, fumigation by spraying is carried out. A modern disinfecter to use steam and Formaldehyde will be a great asset to the area.

SECTION 4. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

I am indebted to your Sanitary Inspector for the reports on water supplies, sewerage, and workings of the Factories Acts which are included in this section of the report.

WATER REPORT.

(a) Boughrood Parish. Eight houses, in the vicinity of Boughrood Bridge, draw water from the Llysevan Water Supply. The remaining houses have private supplies, in times of drought the quantity is insufficient and the quality in many instances may be classified as "suspicious" I sincerely hope the suggested scheme known as the Bostin will mature in the very near future.

(b) Bryngwyn Parish The Council owns one small water supply in this parish and there is sufficient water to extend the main to the hamlet of Rhosgoch. It is hoped that this will be done before the end of 1947.

In times of drought this parish suffers greatly, both from the domestic and agricultural need of water, and your Consulting Engineer has submitted a scheme which will satisfy the whole needs of the parish.

(c) Clyro Parish Has one water supply which serves some 37 properties, 19 cottages are served from stand-pipes and 25 other properties have water laid on.





This supply was laid down some 45 years ago and for many years the maintainance has been carried out by the Clyro Estate, the whole scheme has now been offered to the Council and it is hoped that the Welsh Board of Health will sanction the transfer, if this is done much needed improvements can be carried out to improve the quality of the water. The quantity has found to be sufficient for the needs of Clyro village, if supervision is regularly maintained in the late summer and autumn months; there is more water going to waste than is being used and should this water be brought into use it will be sufficient for any development in Clyro for the next twenty years.

The other 100 dwellings in the parish have private supplies ranging from open shallow wells to small private piped supplies.

(d) Glasbury Parish In this parish there are 90 cottages of which some 45 have the water laid on from the Council's water supply.

The other 45, together with 21 farm dwellings are served by small shallow wells, pumps or small private supplies.

Water from the shallow wells has to be carried for distances varying from 20 to 400 yards, and the only public school falls into this category, and one must confess that such conditions should not be allowed to continue, if the Bostin Scheme matures this parish will greatly benefit, in case of drought the agricultural needs do not suffer as greatly as the domestic.

(e) Llanbedr-Painsecastle Parish.

Has one small supply serving three farms and six cottages, the other properties have small shallow wells and small piped supplies. In times of drought both domestic and agricultural needs are seriously handicapped. The only suitable source which can serve this parish is Llanbwehllyn Lake.

(f) Llandowri Fach Parish

Has no piped supply and in times of drought the domestic need is greater since the agricultural need is easily met by the river. This parish can be easily supplied from Llanbwehllyn Lake. There are 3 cottages and 15 farm dwellings in this parish.

(g) Llandilo Graban Parish

Has three private piped supplies, and one of these serving one farm is so defective that it could easily be written off. The remaining properties have small shallow wells and all are subject to gross pollution. This parish can be supplied from Llanbwehllyn Lake. There are 17 cottages and 30 other dwellings in this parish.

(h) Llanstephan Parish

This parish has 28 dwellings, and 12 are served by a private piped supply laid on to each house. The remaining dwellings have similar supplies as mentioned in the other parishes. This parish could be easily supplied with additional water from Llanbwehllyn Lake.

(i) Llowes Parish

The Council has a small undertaking in this parish, and serves the hamlet of Llowes. The mains to the supply do not allow water to reach the proposed new Housing Site, and it is proposed to lay a new 2" main from the reservoir direct to the site.

The remaining properties of this parish are served by shallow wells and open streams and the majority are subject to gross pollution.





As will be observed from the above report of the survey of the parishes it is only in general outline and it is hoped to give fuller details in the next annual report.

During the period 1st. September 1946 to the 31st. December 1947, 49 samples from various sources in the district were submitted for bacteriological examination and the results were classified as follows:-

Highly satisfactory .....	1.
Satisfactory .....	3.
Suspicious .....	5.
Unsatisfactory .....	40.

The above results are classified according to the Ministry of Health Report No. 71 (1939) which suggests that non-chlorinated piped supplies should be as follows

	<u>Presumptive coliform count</u> <u>per 100 ml. water.</u>
Class I Highly satisfactory	Less than 1.
Class II Satisfactory	1 to 2.
Class III Suspicious	3 to 10.
Class IV Unsatisfactory	Greater than 10.

Efficient chlorination should yield a water free from coliform organisms in 100 ml. water

Small rural private supplies: Such supplies from shallow wells should not often show over 50 coliform organisms per 100 ml. Persistent failure to attain this standard should lead to condemnation.

#### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

There are no sewers nor sewerage disposal works in the district but instructions have been given to the Consulting Engineer to prepare schemes for the villages of Glasbury and Clyro.

#### PUBLIC CLEANING

No collection of refuse has been made during the year but it is hoped to start a once-weekly collection to the larger villages and a monthly collection to the rest of the district during the year 1948. The disposal of same will be known as the Control Method.

#### SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The sanitary inspection of the area was undertaken by the Sanitary Inspector. The following details give information for the year.

##### Nuisances

Number of complaints received.....	29
Number of complaints investigated.....	29
Number of premises visited.....	71
Number of premises revisited .....	31

There has been considerable difficulty experienced during the year in carrying out repairs owing to the limited supply of building materials. At present repair work is of a patching nature and it is to be hoped that a greater supply of material will soon be available to prevent decent property deteriorating.

##### Houses let in Lodgings.

It is not considered that any of the houses in the district are of such a nature as to require control under Byelaws made under Section 6 of the Housing Act, 1936.



Offensive Trades

There are no offensive trades in the district.

Common Lodging Houses

There are no common lodging houses in the district.

Licensed Premises

Number of visits made by the Sanitary Inspector	10
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Shops

Number of visits made by the Sanitary Inspector	17
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Factories

Number of Factories and Workshops in the district	8
Number of inspection made	17

Camping Sites

There is no recognised camping site in the district for which a licence is necessary.

Eradication of Bed Bugs and steps taken to combat infestation.

Any premises found as a result of complaint of inspection to be infested with bed bugs or other vermin would be treated with D.D.T. preparations.

Rodent Control

One full-time Rodent Operator is employed, who works under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector. This Operator is also similarly employed by the Hay Urban District Council and Hay Rural District Council.

Number of premises inspected during the year	37
Number of premises found infested	5
Number of premises treated by Rodent Operator	5
Estimated number of rats killed during the year	160
Number of dead rats recovered in the year	37

SECTION 5. HOUSING

There was no appreciable difference in the housing conditions in the district during the year. Owing to the complete cessation of building operations during the war years the housing shortage was acute. The Council has under construction 8 houses at Clyro and Boughrood, but none of these were near completion at the end of the year. It is to be hoped that labour conditions and the supply of materials will show some improvement during the coming year so that this pressing need in the district may be alleviated.

SECTION 6 INSPECTION OF SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Milk sampling in the district is carried out under the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme. Under this scheme an attempt is made by the Sanitary Inspector to test each retailer's milk once a fortnight. The wholesale milk is tested at the various creameries. The laboratory functioning under this scheme is situated at Brecon.

Under this scheme milk is graded into three categories,

- Category A..... Milk of good keeping quality.
- Category B..... Milk of doubtful keeping quality.
- Category C..... Milk of poor keeping quality.





The following figures show the number of results of milk samples taken during the year.

Number of samples taken .....	37
Number in Category "A" .....	17
Number in Category "B" .....	3
Number in Category "C" .....	17

#### Meat

There is no slaughterhouse in the district. All meat is supplied from the Ministry of Food's slaughterhouse at Brecon. No meat was condemned in the district as being unfit for human consumption.

No food was condemned during the year.

#### Ice-cream Premises

There is only one property registered for the sale of Ice-cream in the district.

Number of visits made by the Sanitary Inspector 3.

#### Fried Fish Shops

There are no Fried Fish and Chip shops in the district.

### SECTION 7. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The following number of cases of notifiable disease were reported to me during the year.

Measles... 12 Scarlet Fever...1. Acute Poliomyelitis...2..

#### Veneral Disease

The County Council has an agreement with the County Hospital, Hereford, for the treatment of these cases. The tracing of contacts and the following up of defaulters is the responsibility of the County Council.

#### Tuberculosis

There were no fresh cases notified during the year.

#### Diphtheria Immunisation

This work is carried out by the Radnorshire County Council, and no cases of diphtheria were notified during the year.

Yours faithfully,

W. W. WILSON.

Medical Officer of Health.



